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Presidential Address delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, Edinburgh, August 6, 1888. T. S. CLOUSTON. *Journal of Mental Science*, October, 1888.

The major part of this address was devoted to Secondary Dementia. General mental death is so characteristically the "goal of all insanities," that "mental disease may be defined as 'a tendency to dementia'"; and so common is it, that two-thirds of the asylum population of Great Britain are more or less demented, and two-fifths of the new cases become so. Its most typical secondary form is that which follows the insanities of adolescence. As idiocy is a failure of the brain in its period of growth, so the dementia consequent on these insanities is a failure of the highest brain tissue at the last stage of its development. The disease is not to be explained by the degenerative action of previous acute mental disease, nor by circulatory changes. It is strictly the result of bad heredity; there is a "tendency to dementia from the beginning." To know what this goal of insanities really is, and to prevent their reaching it, is the problem of psychiatry.

The address was eminently successful in calling out discussion (*vide* the report of the proceedings in the same number of the *Journal of Mental Science*). It was discussed by Drs. Tuke, Savage, Wiglesworth, Ireland, and others, almost every speaker taking issue with Dr. Clouston on one point or more.

IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Memory and its Doctors. Dr. E. C. PICK. London, 1888.—*Memory. What it is and how to improve it.* DAVID KAY. London, 1888. "*Loisette*" exposed, together with *Loisette's Complete System of Physiological Memory.* G. S. FELLOWS. New York, 1888.—*Memory Systems, Old and New.* A. E. MIDDLETON. With a bibliography and other matter, by G. S. FELLOWS. New York, 1888.

The appearance of these volumes testifies more than to anything else to the great popular interest in psychological matters, especially when any practical advantages are to result; for the idea has not yet been entirely abandoned that some royal road to knowledge is still to be found, some mysterious method of which a favored mortal possesses the key still to be revealed. While psychology is supposed to hold some definite position regarding such themes, hardly any confidence is placed upon these opinions in a matter of practical application. Thus the professional memory-teacher gains success from a public that ought to know better.

Dr. Pick's little volume presents quite modest claims. He bases his system upon natural acquisition by real labor, not hampering the pupil by associations artificially imposed, but simply advocating the good effects of method and an attention to one's associations. Especially do the sound portions of his treatise become prominent when we contrast them with the shallow attempts of his predecessors, of whom he gives a concise and convenient account. There we read of associations of dates with the rooms of a house, with harsh sound combinations and the places in a magic square. Even a memory pill and a memory diet was advocated. Prominent examples of mnemonic feats are also entertainingly given. This primer can be recommended as a pleasant introduction to the topic,